

C R O M E R

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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THE SEVENTY-FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st

1959

Mr. L. T. Sansford, Chairman

Mr. C. R. Amis	Mr. M. D. New
Mr. R. W. Graveling	Mr. N. H. Trollor
Mrs. E. G. Lycett	Mr. N. D. Warnes
Mr. T. H. Makins	Mr. J. H. Rounce



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CROMER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1959

Mr. L. T. Sansford, Chairman	
Mr. C. R. Amis	Mr. M. D. New
Mr. R. W. Graveling	Mr. N. H. Trollor
Mrs. E. G. Lycett	Mr. N. D. Warnes
Mr. T. H. Makins	Mr. J. E. Webster

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. P. G. Holt. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

Mr. J. A. Haigh. Cert.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.

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CROMER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
Year Ended 31st December, 1959

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the annual Public Health report for 1959. As my duties commenced in the latter half of the year, it is obvious that I cannot speak from first hand experience for the earlier months. I am, therefore, particularly grateful to Mr. Haigh, the Public Health Inspector, for the assistance and co-operation which I have received in making this report a complete record of the year's happenings.

TOPOGRAPHY

A popular seaside resort, noted for its bracing, healthy climate, situated on the North Norfolk Coastline about midway between Mundesley and Weybourne.

The Cromer Urban District is bounded on the East, South and West by the Erpingham Rural District and on the North by the sea.

Area in acres	1,158
Population (Estimated)	4,960
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,856
Rateable Value	£79,356
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£318

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	37	29	66
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>38</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>67</u>

This gives a Birth Rate of 13.5 (corrected 14.7) per 1000 of the estimated population, compared with a rate of 16.5 for England and Wales; the illegitimate births comprised 1.5% of the total.

Still Births

There were two male Still Births, which gives a rate of 29 per 1,000 births. The National figure is 20.7, the lowest ever recorded. There were no illegitimate still births.

Infant Mortality

There were no deaths of infants under 1 year of age, compared with 3 last year and 2 in 1957.

Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales) is 22.0

Deaths

The causes of Death were as follows :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Other Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomylitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Cancer of the stomach	2	3	5
Lung & Bronchial passages ..	-	1	1
Breast. Uterus.	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic growths	5	3	8
Leukaemia & Aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	7	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6	-	6
Coronary disease & Angina	8	2	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	4	5	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1	5
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Diseases Respiratory System .	-	-	-
Ulcer Stomach & Duodenum	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea...	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion ..	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other diseases & ill-defined diseases	4	3	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide. Homicide & operations of War	-	-	-
	<u>43</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>75</u>

The total number of deaths is 75, ~~which is~~ appreciably less than last year, which was 87. Heart disease accounts for 1/3rd of the total, Vascular Lesions of Nervous System for 17.3% and Cancer for 18.7%. These groups comprise 70% of the total deaths. It is gratifying to note that once again there were no deaths from maternal causes or from any infective disease, including T.B.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 15.1.

1958 figure	17.0
1957 "	17.3

Corrected death rate per 1000.	10.0.
National rate	11.6.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notifications received during the year are tabulated below :-

Disease	Age Unknown	Under							Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Measles	2	1	25	31	77	8	-	-	144
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Chicken Pox	-	1	-	2	6	1	-	1	11
T.B. Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL ...	2	2	25	33	83	9	-	4	158

The most noteworthy feature is the high incidence of Measles compared with last year, when only 11 cases were notified. The one case of T. B. is an improvement on the previous year, when 2 cases occurred. No cases of food poisoning were notified, which, in a town dependent upon its catering industry, speaks well for those concerned with the handling of food.

TUBERCULOSIS

In addition to the one case of T.B. notified, there were also two inward transfers, i.e., cases of T.B. who have come to live in the district, so that the total number of cases on the T.B. Register at the end of the year stood at 20.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

1959

Number of Notifications received in 1959

	<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
New Cases	1	-	-	-	1
Inward Transfers	2	-	-	-	2

Number of cases on Register at 31.12.59

	<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	9	6	2	3	20

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year. With the hot, dry summer that was experienced in 1959, one would have expected a high incidence, but in the whole administrative County of Norfolk only 3 paralytic cases occurred. I feel sure that the Poliomyelitis vaccination programme has played a large part in producing this result, and in that case the tremendous amount of work which has been put into this scheme has been well worth while.

The number of persons vaccinated against the disease during 1959 are as shown below :-

1 9 5 9

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

AREA NO. 2

Age or Category.	-1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 1954	6 1953	7 1952	8 1951	
Two Injections received during 1959.	30	186	82	33	34	33	30	24	26	
-do-	9 1950	10 1949	11 1948	12 1947	13 1946	14 1945	15-25 1944-33	E.M.	G.P.	H.S. A.S.
	17	28	33	32	31	17	954	153	1	31 1

TOTAL 1776.

These figures relate to the Administrative Area No.2. of Norfolk County, as separate figures for Cromer are not available.

The above figures relate to those who completed a course of two injections during the year in Area No.2.

In addition, 3218 cases who had received the second injection at least seven months previously were given a third injection in 1959.

The total number of persons vaccinated against Poliomyelitis (three injections) since the inception of the scheme is as follows :-

Children born between 1955-1958	824
Children born between 1943-1954	2947
Young persons born between 1933-1942	264
Expectant Mothers	146
General Practitioners and their Families	30
Ambulance Staff and their Families	16
Hospital Staff and their Families	114

TOTAL 4341

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH and TETANUS

Immunisation against Diphtheria is now usually combined with that against Whooping Cough and Tetanus so as to reduce the total number of injections required. As a prophylactic measure, the value of inoculation against Diphtheria is well proved and this disease, which only a very few years ago was so common and so feared by every mother with young children,

is now a rarity. Because one does not now meet the disease and because it has tended to be "crowded out" by the more fashionable Polio programme, the number immunized has been falling off recently. This trend will have to be reversed if we do not want a return of Diphtheria, and I am glad to report a small increase in the number inoculated during 1959.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - AREA NO.2.

Age at 31.12.59 i.e. born in year..	-1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 1954	6 1953	7 1952	8 1951
Total immunised during 1959.	65	129	36	5	2	4	3	1	1
	9 1950	10 1949	11 1948	12 1947	13 1946	14 1945			
	1	1	3	1	-	-	TOTAL under 15 years. 252		
Ditto - Booster	-1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 1954	6 1953	7 1952	8 1951
	-	-	1	-	-	3	5	2	-
	9 1950	10 1949	11 1948	12 1947	13 1946	14 1945			
	-	-	-	-	-	-	TOTAL under 15 years. 11		
Total Immunized any time between 1945-59.	-1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 1954	6 1953	7 1952	8 1951
	65	166	247	240	260	279	347	325	225
	9 1950	10 1949	11 1948	12 1947	13 1946	14 1945			
	257	372	347	375	283	210	TOTAL under 15 years 3998		
Ditto - Booster	-1 1959	1 1958	2 1957	3 1956	4 1955	5 1954	6 1953	7 1952	8 1951
	-	-	1	-	1	3	10	10	8
	9 1950	10 1949	11 1948	12 1947	13 1946	14 1945			
	45	131	169	284	276	220	TOTAL under 15 years 1158		

DIPHTHERIA (cont)

The various antigens used were as follows:-

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Triple antigen (Diphtheria/Portussis/ Tetanus)	247	10
Combined antigen (Diphtheria/Portussis)	5	-
Single antigen (Diphtheria only)	-	1
	<u>252</u>	<u>11</u>

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

The following table relates to persons immunised against tetanus (excluding those protected with triple antigen) in Area No.2 during 1959:

Age at date of immunisation.	Under 1	1-4	5-14	Over 15	TOTAL
Tetanus toxoid only.	2	23	105	127	257

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The number vaccinated is almost the same as last year.

The following table relates to persons vaccinated in Area No.2 during 1959:

Age at date of vaccination.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-14	15 & over	TOTAL
Primary	192	8	2	-	2	4	24	232
Re-vaccination	-	3	1	-	4	14	85	107

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

For the purpose of carrying out the services provided by the Norfolk County Council under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the Urban District of Cromer, the Urban District of Sheringham and the Rural District of Erpingham are combined to form County Area No.2. These services include midwifery, the care of mothers and young children, vaccination and immunisation, home nursing, mental health, prevention of illness care and after-care, home helps and the ambulance service.

Maternity and Child Welfare

The town is served by an Infant Welfare Clinic, held twice a month at the Local Health Office, Norwich Road, Cromer. The domiciliary service is provided by a District Nurse/Midwife and a full time Health Visitor, both of whom are in attendance at the Clinic together with the Medical Officer.

All children under 5 are visited regularly in their homes by the Health Visitor, who takes over from the Midwife when the baby is two weeks old. Children of 5 years and over come under the supervision of the School Nurse.

Vaccination and Immunisation

This is carried out by the Assistant County Medical Officer and by the General Practitioners. Sessions for vaccination and immunisation against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio are arranged at Clinics, Schools and General Practitioners, surgeries.

School Medical Service

This takes up a considerable amount of time as every one of the 28 schools in the area is visited annually and on these occasions a full examination of all children in the appropriate age groups is carried out. They are seen during their first year at school, at 10 years and before leaving; if any defects are discovered, they are referred for treatment or investigation. Children in whom there is thought to be a need for supervision are seen every year. Apart from the routine visits, many special visits to schools are made for such purposes as immunization, mental ascertainment, examination when transport to school is believed necessary and so on. The vision of all pupils is tested at 8 years as a routine.

GENERAL WELFARE

These services are administered in the district by the Local Welfare Officer, who is in attendance and available for interview at:

CROMER. Local Health Office. 9 - 10 daily.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Sewage

For some years there has been growing apprehension about the danger of bathing in sea-water polluted by sewage. As this is a field in which epidemiological studies have been almost totally lacking, it has been a difficult task for Medical Officers of Health to advise their Councils as to whether a serious hazard to the health of the community existed. It is only too easy to subscribe to majority views, which on health matters are usually based solely on ignorance. What is needed is an authoritative statement based on facts and rational thinking, and this is now available. The Medical Research Council's Memorandum on Sewage Contamination of Bathing Beaches in England and Wales is the result of five years scientific study of this problem and its conclusion is this:- "The Committee's studies suggest that, with the possible exception of a few aesthetically revolting beaches round the coast of England and Wales, the risk to health of bathing in sewage contaminated sea-water can, for all practical purposes, be ignored.

The results of the investigation are reassuring and should go a long way towards relieving anxiety about any presumed danger of contracting infectious diseases from sea-bathing. There is a point, however, which should be made quite clear. The investigation was concerned solely with the hazards to health of sea-bathing; the fact remains that bathing in sewage-polluted water is aesthetically unpleasant and, to many people, revolting. If one wishes to make a case against this coastal pollution, then the health aspect cannot be used as evidence because, so far as enlightened human knowledge goes, there is no danger. One must rely on the consideration of what is aesthetically undesirable and on the loss of amenity.

Your obedient servant,

P. G. HOLT

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PART II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

THE REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Sanitary Inspections of the Area:

The following inspections were carried out:-

House to House Inspections	170
Inspections under Housing Acts	40
Inspections of Nuisances discovered	21
Re-inspection to ascertain Progress	21
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	Nil
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	40
Inspections under Factories and Workshops Acts	13
Re-inspections	13
Inspection of tenements	16
Inspection of Foodshops other than Dairies & Bakehouses	851
Premises disinfected	Nil
Rooms disinfected	Nil
Drainage Systems tested	50
Committee Meetings attended	12
Preliminary Notices served	20
Legal Proceedings taken	Nil
Premises found to be defective by house to house inspection	21
Premises found to be defective by Workshop inspection..	Nil
Premises found to be defective by Tenement inspection..	Nil
statutory Notices served	Nil
Housing - No Court Action taken	Nil

Housing ... The erection of Council houses is now at a standstill and one must note that the present rents are a serious drain on the pockets of people not in receipt of industrial incomes.

The average of private persons erecting houses for their own needs is being maintained, but a shortage of building sites in the right locality may hamper this movement in the near future.

Slum Clearance ... Steady progress was continued during the year in this connection, the tendency being towards improvement and re-construction rather than demolition.

Meat Inspection .. There are no slaughterhouses in the district and the whole of the meat sold in the shops in Cromer is brought in from outside sources.

Coming from large slaughterhouses, the meat is inspected at the source and is also inspected in the shops in Cromer.

The standard of meat supplied is, in general, very good and it has not been found necessary to take any action during the year.

Food Inspection ... The food offered for sale continues to be of good quality and I wish to acknowledge the ready co-operation of the firms engaged in this trade for Wholesale and Retail.

Ice Cream ... Supplies of Ice Cream on sale in the district were regularly sampled during the year and all samples were returned by the Public Analyst as Grade "A".

Slaughterhouses ... There are no Licensed Slaughter Houses in the District.

Water ... Samples of raw and chlorinated water were taken from the Metton and Roughton Road Pumping Stations at intervals during the year and the analysis carried out proved that this source of water continues to be of very high purity. Satisfactory reports were received on all the samples submitted.

Industry ... Several enquiries were received from Industrial firms for available sites within the district for industrial purposes and, if industry is developed, it will mean an extension of storm and surface water sewers in the South Western area of the district.

Public Conveniences ... The Council have given instructions ~~instructions for the~~ erection of additional Public Conveniences on the Runton Road Car Park, sited in the West of the area.

They are also concerned about the state of the Red Lion Conveniences and have given instructions for a scheme to be prepared with a view to modernising these premises.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
in respect of the Year 1959 for the Urban District
of CROMER in the County of Norfolk

Prescribed particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1. OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	22	15	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	8	3	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	6	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.....	33	24	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Over-crowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Cons. (S.7)					
Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Offences against the Act (not incl. relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

- 15 -

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

NO OUTWORKERS

...

RETURN NIL

Signature:

P. G. HOLT

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Date: June, 1960.

